

**The *Coffee House Wordsmith*
Guide to Paying Writer's Markets
and Resources**

Fall 2011

by Joe Barlow

<http://coffeehousewordsmith.com>

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If you would like to submit a paying writer's market for inclusion in the next edition, please e-mail the details to Joe Barlow at coffeehousewordsmith@gmail.com.

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Introduction: How to Become a Freelance Writer in One Step

Every morning my alarm clock went off, and every morning I wanted to pound that sucker into dust with my shoe.

I'm actually a morning person. I love getting up early and greeting the dawn. I take pride in starting my day at the same time as the birds, and I feel tremendous satisfaction in knowing that I've already accomplished many of my goals for the day before some of my friends have managed to stumble into the shower.

My frustration with the alarm clock, therefore, was not the result of having my sleep interrupted. It was the result of knowing that control over my day was about to be wrested away from me. Of knowing that I was a corporate slave, about to trade eight precious hours of my life for a handful of dollars, all for the sake of making an already rich company even richer.

I'd always loved to write, and dreamed of an existence in which I could earn a living by putting words together. I was the weirdo in my high school English class who complained when there were no essay questions on a test, and expressed disappointment that we were only assigned one term paper per year. I loved (and still love) the act of research, of conveying facts and viewpoints via the printed word, of finding the most eloquent way to express a sentiment.

Oh, I thought, if only I could make a living as a writer. But that was impossible. That was something other people did, not a nobody like me. I didn't have a college degree. I didn't have connections in the publishing industry. I didn't have months of free time I could devote to penning the great American novel. No, I would have to be content with writing long, thoughtful e-mails to my friends, or posting messages on Internet newsgroups, at least the few I could find that weren't overrun with spammers or cyber-trolls.

But one day, after a particularly frustrating week at the office, I had a crazy idea. Without bothering to analyze the rationality of my actions, I called up my local newspaper and placed a classified ad. (Remember, this was the late '90s. Today I would have just posted on Craigslist or a similar service.) I don't remember the exact wording of the ad, but it was something along the lines of: "Freelance Writer Available. Need help with that writing project, book, or marketing brochure? Call Joe at XXX-XXXX."

I listed no qualifications in the ad, for I had none. I listed no previous clients, for the exact same reason. I simply announced that I was available to help others with their writing projects.

To my amazement, I received three phone calls the morning the ad appeared. Here is a summary of each, along with the results:

Call #1: A recently downsized computer programmer contacted me. His qualifications and career accomplishments were great, but they sounded dull and lifeless on his resume. Was there anything I could do to make him sound more enticing to a potential employer?

Looking over the document, I saw that he repeatedly described himself in a passive way. Even though he'd been a supervisor at his old job, he had written his resume in such a way that he came across as a follower rather than a leader. Instead of discussing the successful policies he'd implemented, he spoke only of how he helped his supervisors achieve *their* goals. A big mistake for someone seeking a new leadership position.

To fix this, we simply restated his career achievements using action words. We brought his personal accomplishments (rather than those of his department) to the forefront, and allowed him to claim credit for them. This made him sound far more dynamic, but we never lied or exaggerated. We didn't have to.

The job took about half an hour, the client was delighted with the result, and I earned \$50 for my time (a fee which seemed borderline criminal to me, considering the ease of the project). Incidentally, he contacted me two weeks later to say that my revised resume had helped him land a great job. I was floored! And in the weeks to come, this man referred many of his friends to me to have their resumes fine-tuned.

Call #2. I heard from a relocated French-Canadian chef, who was working on a cookbook. English was not her native language, and although she was determined to write the manuscript herself, she needed a copyeditor/proofreader.

This job earned me a few hundred bucks over the course of a month as we exchanged notes, ideas, and corrections back and forth through e-mail. In a few weeks, we completed a bulletproof manuscript that retained her charming personality but removed the linguistic oddities that had crept into her earlier drafts.

I worked no more than two hours per week on this project, and probably no more than eight or nine hours in total. She loved the final product, and baked me some of the most amazing pastries I've ever eaten as an added thank-you. It's good to have a talented chef as a client!

Call #3. A professor from a local university contacted me after seeing my ad. Her department needed someone to assist with a grant proposal they were in the process of writing. Was I up for the challenge?

She wanted to schedule a face-to-face consultation before formally hiring me. I agreed, and we made plans to meet the following week.

In the interim, I went to my local bookstore and purchased an early edition of *Grant Writing For Dummies*, which I devoured over the next three days. I even went on the burgeoning Internet and located some sample grants, which I printed out and practically memorized.

The meeting couldn't have gone better. I'd done so much advance preparation that I was able to speak knowledgeably about the grant writing process, even though I'd never written such a proposal. I even mocked up some sample text, demonstrating one possible method we could use to sell her organization to the grant board.

I got the job.

Her university, in fact, became my biggest freelance client for the next two years. I ended up writing several grants for them, as well as many fundraising letters. It was a dream partnership, which ended only when I moved from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. The school, understandably, preferred to deal with local writers. Even so, that particular university remains one of my all-time favorite clients and best working experiences.

Based on these three initial phone calls, and other clients that soon found me through flyers, word of mouth, and additional classified ads placed in other newspapers, I was able to leave that miserable day job within six months. Not bad for someone who thought his dream job was forever outside his grasp. I simply couldn't believe anyone would hire me if I didn't have an extensive writing portfolio.

And here's the kicker. Take a guess how many of these clients asked about my previous writing experience, or my education level.

Zero.

None of these people asked to see a writing portfolio. They didn't care about my credentials; they simply had a problem that they wanted me to solve. (*Can you fix my resume? **Yes, I can.** Will you correct the poor English in my cookbook's manuscript? **Yes, I will.** Do you know enough about the grant writing process to help our department get funded? **Yes, I do.***)

Upon reflection, this mindset actually makes sense. Consider:

Have you ever hired a plumber? Sure you have. And what's the process? If you're like most people, you look in the phone book, or go online, read a few ads,

and call someone who sounds promising. This person comes to your home, and you let them in.

How do you know they're a plumber? Because they say they are. When they show up, they look like a plumber. They have plumbing tools with them. They're dressed in the correct clothes.

That's good enough for us, right? I don't know about you, but I've never asked a plumber to show me his plumbing portfolio, or his plumbing degree, before he repairs my leaky faucet. I just want the problem solved as quickly as possible! I don't care if I'm his first-ever client, or his millionth.

Likewise, how did my potential clients know I was a writer? Because I told them so. When I sent them an e-mail, it contained no spelling or grammatical errors. When I showed up to meet them, I was dressed professionally and had writing tools (a laptop, a notebook, a pen, and a small cassette recorder) with me.

And my work thrilled them. In the end, that was the only thing that mattered.

In the fourteen years since I began freelancing, I've had many clients. The only potential employers who ever expressed interest in seeing writing samples or a portfolio were corporations. Fortunately, by the time I began working with these types of clients (including IBM, Adelphia Cable, and many others), I had accumulated an extensive portfolio of work from the private clients I described earlier.

Are you starting to understand the implications? In the eyes of my clients, I was a professional writer on the day I declared myself to be one. And not a day before.

Guess what? The same is true of you. Even if you haven't made a sale yet, or if you don't have a degree in English or Journalism, you can do this. As long as the fires of language and creativity flow through your veins, you've got what it takes to write professionally. You now have no excuses for not writing.

Right now, this very minute, your life has changed. You are no longer an aspiring writer. You are a writer. Congratulations on your promotion!

Now get to work. After all, your future's not going to build itself.

-Joe Barlow

<http://coffeehousewordsmith.com>

Paying Fiction Markets

Aberrant Dreams.

Joe's Notes: Buys sci-fi, fantasy, and horror stories. Editor places a high premium on original stories with quality characters; not interested in "tired old themes." Note: The magazine occasionally closes submissions for a few weeks so the editors can work through the backlog. Ensure the magazine is accepting submissions prior to sending your work. Pays 3 cents per word, up to a maximum payment of \$100. Strongly prefers stories under 10,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Abyss & Apex.

Joe's Notes: Pays 5 cents per word for genre fiction, or a flat fee of \$75 for longer stories, whichever is less. Editor is not interested in horror, but will gladly consider "high fantasy, magic realism, hard science fiction, sword and sorcery, and genre-bending stories that don't quite seem to fit elsewhere." Submissions must be made in MS Word or RTF format. Flash fiction and poetry are okay. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

AdBusters.

Joe's Notes: Publishes politically flavored fiction with a humorous slant. According to the writing guidelines, the perfect submission is one that features a "fresh angle on our world" through "political analysis" or a "short story illustrating the madness of the modern world." Payment and word length varies. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Albedo One.

Joe's Notes: Based out of Ireland, *Albedo One* publishes high-quality horror, fantasy, and science-fiction. Desired story length is between 2,500 and 8,000 words. Pays three Euros per 1,000 words, plus a complimentary copy of the issue in which one's work appears. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Publishes mystery fiction of 12,000 words or less. Very open to working with new writers. Do not query prior to submitting; however, note that this market does not accept submissions via e-mail. Payment varies. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Allegory.

Joe's Notes: Primarily publishes horror, fantasy, and sci-fi. Occasionally considers other genres if characterization is strong. Will consider reprints. No stories based on TV or movie properties! Pays flat fee of \$15 regardless of word count. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

American Short Fiction.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$300 to \$500 for literary fiction, depending on story length. Also

holds an annual contest for short fiction writers with a top prize of \$1,000. (The contest has an entry fee; regular submissions do not.) Editor plays strong emphasis on quality dialogue (non-stilted, low on exposition). Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Analog.

Joe's Notes: This long-running magazine publishes well-written sci-fi stories and occasional science-based non-fiction as well. Staff is open to working with new writers, but publication standards are very high. Stories should not be so dependent on future technology plots that the removal of said technology from the story would render it unworthy of being told. Pays 6 to 8 cents per word for short stories (up to 7,500 words) or \$450 to \$600 for longer tales, though the editor's preferred word count is 7,000 words or less. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Another Realm.

Joe's Notes: Publishes horror, fantasy, and sci-fi stories between 1000 and 5000 words. Pays \$25 for first electronic distribution rights. *Another Realm* previously published flash fiction (less than 1000 words), but seems to be transitioning away from these shorter tales. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Asimov's Science Fiction.

Joe's Notes: Pays a minimum of six cents per word for science fiction tales up to 7,500 words in length, and a flat fee of \$450 for longer stories. Fiction should involve a premise that inspires thought and reflection, rather than tired cliches like laser battles and killer robots. Unpublished writers are welcome to submit. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Babybug.

Joe's Notes: Geared towards toddlers (ages 3 and younger), this magazine publishes extremely simple stories and *Mother Goose*-esque verse. Published 9 times per year. Pays \$250 per page. Do not query prior to submission. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Big Sky Journal.

Joe's Notes: Billing itself as "the magazine of the Northern Rockies," *Big Sky Journal* is interested in fiction and poetry involving tales of the great outdoors. Stories often involve hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking as themes. First-person stories are preferred. Payment varies. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Boulevard Magazine.

Joe's Notes: This literary magazine publishes fiction (up to 8,000 words) along with occasional pieces of non-fiction and poetry. While they are open to working with experienced writers, the editor is especially excited to work with new talent. Pays \$50 to \$500 for short fiction, depending on length. Be aware that the editor occasionally closes submissions for a few months to allow the staff to dig through the backlog. As such, verify that submissions are open before sending your work. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Broken Pencil.

Joe's Notes: Published quarterly. Pays a minimum of \$30 for original fiction. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Cappers.

Joe's Notes: Buys science-fiction, fantasy, and horror stories. Editor places a high premium on original stories with quality characters; not interested in "tired old themes." Note: The magazine occasionally closes submissions for a few weeks so the editors can work through the backlog. Ensure the magazine is accepting submissions prior to sending your work. Pays 3 cents per word, up to a maximum payment of \$100. Strongly prefers stories under 10,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

ChiZine.

Joe's Notes: Buys dark fiction/horror of 4,000 words or less. Pays 7 cents per word. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Claremont Review.

Joe's Notes: This Canadian-based magazine publishes short fiction, plays, and poetry by young writers (ages 13-19). No science fiction, fantasy, or romance. Editor prefers work that "reveals something about the human condition." Pays \$10 per page. No reprints. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Clarkesworld.

Joe's Notes: Publishes original fiction in the sci-fi, fantasy, and horror genres, from 1000 to 8000 words in length; however, stories of over 4000 words are only published in rare circumstances. Payment is 10 cents per word for the first 4000 words, and 5 cents per word for all words beyond that point. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Clean Sheets.

Joe's Notes: Publishes erotic fiction. According to the editors, the best way to have your work accepted is to provide "intriguing characters, compelling plots... and sex that sears your motherboard." Pays \$25 for short fiction ranging from 1,500 - 3,500 words. If your story is selected for inclusion in one of *Clean Sheets*' print anthologies, additional compensation will be provided. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Dunestee Audio Fiction Magazine, The.

Joe's Notes: This publication distributes audio recordings of original speculative fiction (horror, sci-fi, and fantasy) through the magic of podcasting, which allows the stories to be heard on any computer or portable MP3 player, such as the iPod or Zune. Stories that have previously appeared in print are welcome for submission, but the editor discourages submissions that have previously appeared on other podcasts. Pays half-a-cent per word, up to a flat fee of \$10. Preferred story submission length is 2,000 to 6,000 words, but shorter tales are sometimes needed to fill a publication hole. If you wish to submit a story longer than 6,000 words, please query the editor first. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Elbow Creek.

Joe's Notes: Publishes original fiction and poetry set in the time of the American Old

West. Those of you with a fondness for writing about cowboys, the open range, and dusty old saloons should check them out. Preferred word length is 1,500 to 10,000 words, with payment ranging from \$20 to \$50. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine.](#)

Joe's Notes: The most popular and longest running (since 1941) mystery magazine in the world finally has a web presence, and a new electronic story submission system to boot! Publishes any genre of fiction as long as mystery is a major plot element. Particularly eager to work with writers who have never published fiction before. Pays 5 to 8 cents per word. Typical word count is 2,500 to 8,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Escape Pod.](#)

Joe's Notes: This audio magazine buys short science fiction and turns it into a downloadable audio presentation for iPods and other portable media players. Pays five cents per word for previously unpublished fiction, up to \$300. Pays three cents per word for reprints. Absolutely no horror or fantasy. Desired word length: 2,000 to 6,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Flagship.](#)

Joe's Notes: Buys original science fiction stories, with a desired length of 2,000 to 7,000 words. Pays \$25 for print and audio rights (exclusive for the first 90 days, then non-exclusive thereafter). Author has the option of recording the audio version themselves if the story is accepted, but no additional pay is offered. (Alternatively, the staff of the publication can record it instead.) Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Gumshoe Review.](#)

Joe's Notes: Publishes mystery-themed fiction. Guidelines state that the editor is looking for "stories where the investigator is the protagonist," and the story's focus should be on "solving a crime, or getting someone out of a jam, or seeking some sort of justice." Pays 5 cents per word, up to 1,000 words. Maximum payment is \$50. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Harper's Magazine.](#)

Joe's Notes: Established in 1850, *Harper's* is one of the most highly regarded fiction markets in North America. Buys literary fiction ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 words. Payment ranges from 50 cents to \$1 per word. Please query prior to submission. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Intergalactic Medicine Show.](#)

Joe's Notes: Published by noted science-fiction author Orson Scott Card, this webzine runs fantasy and science-fiction tales on a bi-monthly schedule. Also considers horror if the emphasis is on the supernatural rather than gore. Emphasis should be on quality characterization and "clear, unaffected writing." Pays 6 cents per word up to 7,500 words, and 5 cents per word thereafter. Buys exclusive print and audio rights for one year. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Journal, The.

Joe's Notes: The prestigious literary magazine of Ohio State University, published since 1972. Pays \$20 for short fiction, with a strong emphasis on literary flow. One of the few publications that does not mind simultaneous submissions. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Les Bonnes Fees.

Joe's Notes: This publication is devoted to fairy tales and similar fantasy stories. Pays 1 to 3 cents per word for fiction. There are no limitations on length, as long as the story can sustain the narrative. Reprints are welcome. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Lightspeed Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Buys original science-fiction stories between 1,500 to 1,700 words. Pays 5 cents per word. The magazine is quite liberal in its interpretation of science-fiction: everything from star travel to time travel to sociological tales. Also publishes two reprint stories per issue, although the editors prefer to solicit reprints themselves. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Missouri Review.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$30 per printed page for quality literary fiction. No length restrictions are enforced, but extremely short or extremely long stories will have a harder time finding a home here. An additional prize of \$1,000 is awarded annually to the author of the best piece of fiction published the previous year, selected by an outside judge. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

New England Review.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$10 per page (\$20 minimum payment) for original fiction and novellas up to 20,000 words in length. Also provides two contributor copies of the issue in which your work appears, along with a one-year subscription to the magazine. Will consider most genres. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

NIL Desperandum.

Joe's Notes: This audio market buys fiction that celebrates their core principles of "truth, life, and the human condition." Will consider any genre. Pays \$10-\$70 for non-exclusive audio rights, depending on word length. Will consider reprints. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Not One of Us.

Joe's Notes: Publishes fiction and poetry that focuses on the themes of alienation and isolation. Payment is ¼-cent per word (\$5 minimum), plus one contributor copy of the magazine. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Over My Dead Body.

Joe's Notes: Publishes fiction with a mystery theme. Pays 1 cent per word. Query before submission. All stories should range from 750 to 4,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Pedestal Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Pedestal publishes original fiction (pays 5 cents per word) and poetry

(usually pays \$40 per poem). No reprints. Each issue is devoted to a specific theme, and has its own unique writing requirements. All writers should check the latest guidelines (which are updated frequently) before submitting, to determine what the editor is interested in buying at that time. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Pockets.

Joe's Notes: This religiously themed magazine is geared towards kids aged 8 to 12. Themes usually revolve around traditional Christian values and teachings. Fiction pieces range from 600 to 1000 words. Payment is 14 cents per word. Poetry is sometimes accepted as well. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Port Iris.

Joe's Notes: This free webzine is distributed to subscribers in the PDF format. Pays \$10 for fantasy and science-fiction stories up to 5,000 words, but may consider other genres if the writing is high quality. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Pseudopod.

Joe's Notes: This audio magazine buys short horror fiction and turns it into a downloadable audio presentation for iPods and other portable media players. Pays \$100 for short fiction up to 5,000 words. Occasionally purchases stories up to 7,500 words, but this is rare. Will consider ultra-short fiction (under 1,500 words) and pays \$20 for these tales. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Spine Tingler.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$25 for horror, mystery or thriller fiction. Recommended word length: 1,500 to 5,000 words. (No payment for stories under 1,500 words.) Do not query prior to submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Strange Horizons.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$50 or 7 cents per word (whichever is greater) for quality speculative fiction. Editor insists that a strong fantasy element be part of the story. Prefers stories under 5,000 words, but will consider longer fiction if the tale warrants it. No novellas, reprints, incomplete stories, or simultaneous submissions. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Threepenny Review.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$400 for first publication rights for short fiction. Submissions are not accepted through e-mail; stories should be sent through postal mail or through the submission form on the site. Does not accept reprints. NOTE: Submissions are only accepted from January through June. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Thrilling New Detective Fiction.

Joe's Notes: Pays \$10-\$15 for original detective fiction. The editor's primary rule: the protagonist must be a private investigator. Editor also wants writers who are open to copyediting and suggestions for rewrites. Writers MUST query prior to submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Vestral Review.

Joe's Notes: Devoted entirely to flash fiction (stories under 500 words). Editor is

particularly interested in humor, but open to most genres **except** kids' fiction, romance, and sci-fi. Pays 3 to 10 cents per word. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Weird Tales.

Joe's Notes: Since 1923, *Weird Tales* has been one of the seminal fiction markets for horror, fantasy, and science-fiction of a strange or unusual bent. Horror legend H.P. Lovecraft was a regular contributor to this publication in the '20s and '30s, and it's still a well-regarded market. (It won the 2009 Hugo Award for Best Genre Magazine.) Pays 5 cents per word for short stories, up to a maximum of 8,000 words (although a word count under 6,000 words is preferred). Occasionally publishes dark poetry (pays \$20 per poem), but this happens infrequently. No reprints unless solicited by editor. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Zoetrope: All-Story.

Joe's Notes: This prestigious literary journal is one of several arts organizations overseen by filmmaker Frances Ford Coppola, the director of *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*, and the screenwriter of *Patton*. Pays up to \$1,200 for short stories or one-act plays of 7,000 words or less, although publication standards are extremely high. Stories should not be rooted in a particular genre (no sci-fi, horror, etc.), but have a traditional mainstream/literary narrative with strong characters. One of the few remaining publications that will not consider e-mail submissions. Please send your work via traditional postal mail. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Paying Non-Fiction Markets

African Vibes.

Joe's Notes: Published six times per year. Editor is interested in articles of interest to African Americans, including arts/entertainment, culture, relationships, general interest, "travel to Africa" stories, etc. Query before submitting, and include estimated word count in your proposal. Authors have the choice between receiving a monetary payment for their article (negotiated at time of acceptance), or receiving no payment but having an author biography accompany the piece instead. All authors also receive a copy of the magazine in which their article appears. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Alternatives Journal.

Joe's Notes: This Canadian publication is devoted to "environmental issues, including ecological, social, and economic dimensions." Editor prefers to work with writers all the way through a project, from initial query up to the revision process. Each issue is based around a particular theme, so be sure to research upcoming issues prior to querying. Pays 10 cents per word, but this payment is available as an honorarium, and must be requested ahead of time. See guidelines for more information. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

American Gardener.

Joe's Notes: This 64-page magazine is the official publication of the American Horticultural Society, and has been distributed to members since 1922. Editor requests that interested authors query first with an article proposal. Pays \$300 to \$500 for feature articles (typically 1,500 to 2,500 words), depending on length and complexity of final piece. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Art Jewelry.

Joe's Notes: Magazine devoted to the creation of jewelry that expresses individualism. Covers many different mediums, including clay, wire, metal, etc. Also interested in articles that cover classes, exhibits, and other items of interest to jewelry makers. No length guidelines or payment rates are listed, but the web site states that an editor will be in touch to discuss the submission process and terms with writers that wish to work with them. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Ask Men.

Joe's Notes: Magazine devoted to men's issues and interests. Covers everything from video games to dating to cars. Pays \$50 per article (750 to 1000 words). Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Back to College.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles and essays about the challenges of going back to school as an adult. Discusses balancing your current career and education, financial aid, taking classes online, and related topics. Pays \$75 to \$100 per original articles. Average length for articles is 1,000 to 1,500 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[BackHome Magazine.](#)

Joe's Notes: I can't put it any better than the publication's own web site: "*BackHome* is a down-to-earth, how-to magazine whose primary purpose is to help people gain more control over their own lives by doing more for themselves. We are looking for interesting, lively, preferably first-person articles based upon actual experience in the fields of gardening, home construction and repair, workshop projects, cooking, crafts, outdoor recreation, family activities and vacations, livestock, home business, home-based and other education, and community/neighborhood action." Pays \$35 per printed page on acceptance. Buys first rights. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

[Bed Times.](#)

Joe's Notes: Published ten times a year, *Bed Times* bills itself as "the business journal for the sleep products industry." This magazine is not targeted towards consumers; it's intended for those involved in the industry. As such, no "how to buy a mattress" pieces. Editor prefers to work with writers who have experience in the business, but is open to working with talented non-industry writers. All submissions should follow the Associated Press stylebook. Payment ranges based on the writer's experience, the length of the article, and complexity. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

[Bitch.](#)

Joe's Notes: This magazine publishes articles and media criticism with a strong feminist slant. Feature articles usually run 2,000 to 4,000 words, though submissions to certain columns often run substantially shorter. Payment varies depending on length and department. Illustrators are encouraged to submit their work as well. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

[Brain, Child.](#)

Joe's Notes: Billing itself as "The Magazine for Thinking Mothers," this site publishes essays, features, humor pieces, and small blurbs called "nutshells" dealing with the modern motherhood experience. Pay rate varies. **Do not query** prior to submission. Editor strongly prefers submissions be included in the body of an e-mail rather than sent as an attachment. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[California Real Estate Magazine.](#)

Joe's Notes: The official publication of the California Association of Realtors. Looking for highly relevant content/interviews tailored to this market. Pay and word length varies. Editors request to see three previously published writing samples. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Cemetery Dance.](#)

Joe's Notes: Published bi-monthly, *Cemetery Dance* is known as one of the best magazines devoted to horror and dark fantasy. Not presently accepting unsolicited fiction, but they are interested in essays and interviews related to the genre; hence, I have classified them as a non-fiction market. Pay rate varies. Query the editor before submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

[Christian Science Monitor.](#)

Joe's Notes: Publishes a variety of US and international news, along with opinion pieces,

which payment ranging depending on the department and length of the piece. Sometimes reimburses expenses, but contact the editor first. Does not accept simultaneous submissions or republished work. Pays between \$200 to \$225 for accepted articles. Publication pays on spec the first time it works with a writer. Submission guidelines provide more detailed instructions on pitching an article, depending on which section the author wishes to target. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Cineaste.

Joe's Notes: Publishes high-quality movie reviews, interviews, film festival coverage, and feature articles related to film history and the movie industry. Payment ranges based on word length and type of article. Reviews typically earn \$20, while compensation for feature articles (3,000 to 4,000 words) starts at \$100. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Cosmos Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Based in Australia, Cosmos is a magazine that covers all aspects of technology and science, although articles should not serve as "cheerleading". Editor recommends new writers target one of the publication's many regular departments, rather than pitching a feature. Pays \$650 to \$2,130 for features, and \$135 to \$520 for shorter departmental pieces. (These figures are in US currency.) Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Dog Lover Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Publishes positive, family friendly articles on pet care and pet ownership. Wants uplifting tales, i.e., "My Pet Saved My Life!" or "10 Great Summer Activities for Fido." Articles should be novice-friendly without being patronizing. Payment and word length varies. Query first. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Dollar Stretcher, The.

Joe's Notes: This mission of this magazine (and web site) is to "provide readers with ways to help them save time and money. Occasionally we will also include material on ways to make money at home." Pays 10 cents per word, with a typical word count of 500-700 words. Buys all rights. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Eating Well.

Joe's Notes: Bills itself as the "only national food magazine that focuses exclusively on eating healthfully." Articles should interest both male and female readers. Pays up to \$1 per word. Desired word length varies by department/column. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

EnRoute.

Joe's Notes: This travel magazine/web site is seeking lifestyle and travel-related articles with a Canadian slant. Pay starts at \$1 per word, but publication standards are very high. Writers must query prior to submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Envoy.

Joe's Notes: A publication with a primarily Catholic readership. Interested in religious-themed articles with which the author has a personal connection (conversion stories,

profiles of religious events of places, etc.). Payment varies and will be negotiated. Desired word count: 2,000 to 4,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Essay Writers.

Joe's Notes: This site only accepts writers who possess a college degree (Bachelor's or higher). Geared towards academic writing, *Essay Writers* commissions freelancers to write papers about a wide variety of subjects. Payment varies based on the complexity or required expertise of the subject matter, but can reach \$16 per page. Check out their [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for more information.

Express Media Voiceworks.

Joe's Notes: Dedicated to introducing young (age 24 and under) Australian writers to the public. Pays up to \$100 for short stories or poetry. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Fishin' Guy, The.

Joe's Notes: This site wants non-fiction articles and product reviews related to fishing. Pays \$10-\$25 for articles of 400 to 1,200 words. Pays an extra \$10 for submissions that employ video. Buys all rights. Pays on acceptance. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

France Revisited.

Joe's Notes: This site is geared towards world travelers, particularly people who frequently travel to, or want to travel to, France. The site currently offers a "token payment" to contributors, but no dollar amounts are given. Looking for articles about things to do in France (restaurant reviews, art/culture pieces, etc.). Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Go Nomad.

Joe's Notes: Publishes "excellent, entertaining, informative and unique travel articles and research about destinations, activities and experiences." Editor is particularly interested in travelogues for countries and US states that have not already been covered. Editor prefers that all articles be accompanied by pictures or video for inclusion on the web site. Pays \$25 for features if accompanied by photos and video. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Government Executive.

Joe's Notes: Published two times per month from April through November, and once per month the rest of the year. Publishes feature stories devoted to government work, with a readership geared towards agency management and the resolution of government problems. Payment is made upon article acceptance. Query prior to submitting via a 1-2 page letter. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

History Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles about world history, with a strong emphasis on the time period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the start of World War II, but editor may be interested in articles that fall outside this time frame. Query before submitting.

Prefers an article tone that is interesting and readable, rather than overly academic. Pays \$55 per published page, including illustrations. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Key Club.

Joe's Notes: The official publication of Key Club International/Kiwanis One, with new issues released twice a year. Readers tend to be service-minded teenagers/students who possess an interest in leadership and serving their community. No fiction or poetry. Pays \$100 to \$400 for articles ranging from 250 to 1,500 words. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Knitty.

Joe's Notes: This quarterly publication is devoted to the joys of knitting, and frequently publishes original patterns and designs. Pays \$75-\$100 for contributions. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Listen.

Joe's Notes: This 16-page monthly publication is geared towards middle- and high-school students, and is frequently employed as a classroom teaching aid. No overtly religious stories, or stories that glamorize or celebrate drug use, drinking, or smoking. Articles should teach life skills if possible, but publication will also consider interviews/profiles with positive celebrity/athletic role models. Payment and word count varies. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Mad Magazine.

Joe's Notes: This legendary humor magazine pays \$500 per printed page for artwork and humor-oriented pieces that fit their very specific, and lengthy, guidelines. It is imperative that you review their requirements before submitting, but if you can provide what they're looking for, it's a great gig. Editor's advice: "Familiarize yourself with today's *Mad*, not the *Mad* you grew up with (although that helps)." Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Metro Family Magazine.

Joe's Notes: This monthly magazine is dedicated to "informing parents and empowering families." Pays \$20-\$50 depending on article length. Please keep feature articles below 1,500 words to improve chance of acceptance. Editor buys 3-6 months in advance, so please plan accordingly when submitting season-based articles. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Military Money.

Joe's Notes: Publishes financial news, tools, and resources that affect military families. Editor prefers to work with writers who are in, or have been in, the military, but this is not strictly required. Buys articles up to 1,200 words in length, but prefers 650-750 words if possible. Photos, charts, or other illustrations are encouraged. Payment varies. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Model Railroad Hobbyist.

Joe's Notes: This magazine publishes how-to articles and videos involving all aspects of model railroading. Desired word length: 3,000 words or less. Query first. Articles should

be accompanied by relevant digital photographs. Payment ranges from \$150 to \$1,000. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Moment.

Joe's Notes: Publishes news and journalism tailored towards the Jewish community. Editor stresses that articles must be geared towards lay readers rather than experts in the subject. Articles should be based in fact, rather than public relations. Also publishes a small amount of poetry. Usually pays 6-8 weeks after publication. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Murray Life.

Joe's Notes: This magazine is proof that a small, region-centric publication can still serve its community well in the digital age. Murray Life focuses on attractions near, prominent citizens of, and news targeted towards, the town of Murray, Kentucky, in Calloway County. The editor is only interested in third-person articles unless you are a "retired king" or an "Olympic medal winner." Pays \$35 to \$50 for first publication rights. Pays an extra \$15 to \$25 per photo or piece of artwork used in the finished article. Editor encourages authors to query first, but will consider completed articles. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Neo Naturalist.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles about nature, hiking, and other forms of outdoor exercise. Hiking trail profiles are a staple of this web site. Editors strongly prefer that a minimum of two photographs accompany all hiking trail profiles. Pays 3 to 6 cents per word for non-exclusive rights. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Nevada Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Published since 1936, this is the official magazine of Nevada tourism. Read by both locals and vacationers. Editor is interested in destination profiles for travelers (i.e., off-the-beaten path cities and attractions), and news/personal interest stories involving Nevada residents. Pays 40 to 50 cents per word for print pieces, and a flat rate of \$200 for web content. Query before submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Painting Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Provides instructional articles for acrylic painting enthusiasts. Assume the reader has an intermediate skill level and tailor your article accordingly. Payment and project length vary. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Passionfruit.

Joe's Notes: A women-centered travel magazine. According to its guidelines, this publication is "for women who recognize that a journey is more than a vacation; it is an opportunity to challenge our beliefs and expand our minds." Editor prefers that first-time writers query prior to submitting. Pays \$20 to \$100 for articles depending on length (more if illustrations or artwork are included). Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Photo Technique.

Joe's Notes: This photography magazine wants articles that can teach, as the name

promises, photography techniques to its readers. Pays \$200 per printed page and \$350 for the cover image. Submit a 1-2 paragraph query article along with a few photos that describe your pitch, prior to sending full article. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Priest, The.

Joe's Notes: Published by OSV (Our Sunday Visitor), this magazine publishes articles devoted to helping Catholic priests perform their parish duties. Also publishes Catholic-themed news. All articles should adhere to established Catholic lore and teachings. Submissions should be under 1,500 words. Payment varies. Photos are welcome. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Progressive, The.

Joe's Notes: Covers news and politics with a left-of-center viewpoint. Interested in a wide variety of topics, with a particular emphasis on interviews and investigative journalism. No satire or opinion pieces. Pay rate varies, but typically ranges from \$500 to \$1,300. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Pyramid.

Joe's Notes: The official publication of Steve Jackson Games, based in Austin, TX. Devoted to all aspects of role-playing games, including complete game campaigns and adventures. Not interested in submissions that utilize copyrighted characters, like James Bond or Spider-Man. Pays 4 cents per word. Will consider any length, but editor rarely accepts anything longer than 5,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Referee.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles specifically tailored towards sports officials and referees. Articles should, if possible, focus on a specific sport and run less than 3,500 for feature consideration. Editor suggests studying back issues carefully to see the type of articles they publish. Payment varies based on experience and length, but generally starts at 4 cents per word. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Running Times.

Joe's Notes: Interested in feature articles (1,500 to 3,000 words) on the subjects of running, training, and profiles of athletes (high school, college, and professional). Query before submitting. Payment varies. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Scuba Diver Australasia.

Joe's Notes: No, the name of this magazine isn't a typo. Published six times per year, Scuba Diver Australasia is read by scuba divers interested in diving in the waters of Australia and Asia. Authors should query with an article proposal before submitting. Word length ranges from 1,500 to 2,500 words for most articles, though pieces intended for certain departments may run shorter -- check submission guidelines for more information. Payment varies based on length and complexity of finished article. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Servo Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Dedicated to robotics, battery technology, and electrical design. Editor prefers articles that are technical without being overly dry. Desired word length: 1,500 to

2,500 words. Pays \$100 per printed page, up to a maximum of \$450.00. Buys non-exclusive rights. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Skydiving.

Joe's Notes: Publishes how-to articles and product reviews of skydiving equipment. Typically pays \$1 per column inch. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Student Leader.

Joe's Notes: Readership typically consists of both students and employees of schools and colleges, including guidance counselors, honor society leaders, resident assistants, campus recruiters, etc. Articles should provide useful and actionable advice on balancing school and social life, motivating or organizing students, and other similar topics. Buys articles up to 900 words. Pays \$50 to \$200. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Sunset.

Joe's Notes: Devoted to a variety of topics, particularly gardening, travel, and home design/decorating. Query before submitting. Pay varies, based on word length, experience, and complexity. Photographs appreciated. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Joe's Notes: Billing itself as the "outdoor magazine of Texas", this publication offers articles devoted to fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and other outdoor-based activities. All submissions should have content relative to Texas. Also pays for photographs. The full list of writer guideline's is quite extensive, and can be found [here](#).

Today's Parent.

Joe's Notes: This Canadian publication is devoted to all aspects of parenting, from pregnancy to raising teenagers. Editor prefers to work with Canadian writers, but will consider writers from other geographical regions. Word length and compensation varies depending on department, but submissions typically run 500 to 700 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Underwired.

Joe's Notes: This magazine is looking for 800 to 1,200-word personal essays on a variety of women-oriented topics. Themes are scheduled several months in advance, so check their guidelines before submitting. Typically pays \$100 per accepted essay. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Videomaker.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles, product reviews, and tutorials geared towards beginning and intermediate videographers. Most articles run around 1,500 words, with payment varying depending on experience, amount of editorial clean-up required, etc. Buys all rights, and pays upon publication. NOTE: This market is only open to writers with prior professional video experience. Please send either a resume, video-themed writing samples, or demo reel with your initial query. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Wavelength Magazine.

Joe's Notes: This publication is devoted to all aspects of outdoor water activities, such as

kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboats. Query before submitting. Pays \$100 to \$200 for articles, depending on length. Additional compensation is offered for photos. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Western New York Family Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Interested in articles and humor pieces about family life in Western New York. Each issue of the magazine has a theme; check the writer's guidelines to ensure that you know what subjects the magazine is currently buying. Do not query before submitting. Pays between \$30 and \$200 depending on length and complexity of the piece. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Wine X Magazine.

Joe's Notes: Magazine for young (average age: 25) wine enthusiasts. Publication prides itself on having a degree of edginess, and a real understanding for youth lifestyle. Submission guidelines are extensive and very specific! Study them carefully before targeting this publication. Payment varies. Average word count: 1,000 to 1,200 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Writer, The.

Joe's Notes: Regularly published for over 120 years, this magazine seeks articles geared towards helping people start and grow a professional writing career. Publication prides itself on helping authors develop their own unique voice and style. Payment and word length varies, depending on the department to which you are submitting. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Writer 2 Writer.

Joe's Notes: Buys articles pertaining to the craft of writing. Pays \$10 flat fee per article for first electronic rights, with a preferred word count of 300 to 1,000 words. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Writer's Digest.

Joe's Notes: Arguably the flagship publication for aspiring writers everywhere, Writer's Digest has a sterling reputation and a long, proud history of delivering some of the finest "how to write" articles. Pays 30 to 50 cents per word for first world rights. Published eight times per year. Prefers to work with established writers, but will consider anyone with a confident, authoritative style who can provide useful content for its readers. Query first, or send completed article on spec. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Writing for Dollars.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles (500 to 1000 words) about the craft of writing. Pays \$15 to \$25 for non-exclusive first publication rights. Sometimes buys reprint rights for \$10. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Writing World.

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles focusing on the craft of writing. Editor is less interested in beginner-oriented articles. Pays 5 cents per word up to a maximum of \$100. Pays \$25 for reprints, and \$15 for short humor-oriented pieces about writing. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Yes!

Joe's Notes: Publishes articles devoted to the creation of a "fairer, more just" society. Topics include social justice, media and copyright reform, democracy, and First Amendment issues. Payment varies, with higher compensation awarded to articles that require heavier research. Contributions range from 100 to 2,500 words, depending on department. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Resources for Writers

Recommended Reading:

- * [*Write and Publish Your E-Book in 7 Days*](#)
- * [*Write Where the Money Is*](#)
- * [*Write Your Book Now: A 26-Week Masterclass*](#)
- * [*Real Writing Jobs*](#)